Installed capacity of Kothagudem and Vijayawada Power Stations

4620. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the installed capacity of the Kothagudem and the Vijayawada Power Stations in Andhra Pradesh are under utilised;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for under utilisation; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for optimum utilisation of the installed capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) During April to July, 1991 Kothagudem and Vijayawada Thermal Power Stations of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board achieved a Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 45.7% and 66.5% respectively against an All-India Average PLF of 53.3%. Due to some equipment failures at Kothagudem and short supply of coal, both Kothagudem and Vijayawada Power Stations suffered some loss of generation during this period.

(c) It is not possible to operate thermal units at 100% PLF because the performance of thermal generating units depends upon age of the unit, quality of coal, system load conditions, hydro-thermal mix in the State/Region, planned maintenance and forced outage of units and system constraints.

Various measures being taken for optimum utilisation of installed capacity include (i) Renovation and Modernisation of old units (ii) assistance to Electricity Boards in undertaking plant betterment programmes (iii) supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal (iv) training of O & M personnel and (v) strengthening of transmission and distribution systems.

Conversion of MG Lines

4621. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals for conversion of several metre gauge lines into broad gauge;

(b) the number of proposals out of them found acceptable; and

(c) the criteria on which these proposals were found acceptable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No proposal has been finalised for converting M.G. line into B.G. other than those where work is already in progress.

(c) The National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) in their report submitted in May 1980 had recommended the following criteria for Gauge Conversion projects :

(i) when it is discovered that the traffic likely to develop in future cannot be handled on the existing system.

(ii) when the magnitude of transhipment involved is such that it is uneconomical, or is not feasible at all, to handle the anticipated volume of traffic

(iii) when it is needed for providing

speedy and uninterrupted means of communication to areas which have potential for growth.

Book-stall at Stations

4622. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s A. H. Wheeler are the only contractor of book stalls on railway stations; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and since when they have been allotted those contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Tourism Policy

4623. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national tourism policy based on the recommendations of Yunus Committee and Tata Committee Reports has been framed by the Union Government; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of main recommendations of these Committees which have been accepted and included in the new tourism policy; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A review of the recommendations of the Yunus Committee and Tata Committee Reports has been initiated recently. The tourism policy would be formulated after this review and consultations with other agencies is completed.

[Translation]

Railway Passes to Freedom Fighters for Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express

4624. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether freedom fighters are not allowed to travel by Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allow them to travel in these trains on their passes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Normally fare paying passengers and Railway employees on Duty are allowed to travel by Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains.

[English]

Oil Fields Open for Alien Firms

4625. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the